

INITIATIVE 764

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 764 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to privatizing the functions of the children's
2 administration that are currently performed within the department of
3 social and health services; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW;
4 creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** By dissolving the children's administration,
7 the state is eliminating a part of a rogue agency that consistently
8 refuses to follow the law and consistently tries to bankrupt anyone who
9 tries to sue over the abuse and violations of the law. By turning over
10 the work to private agencies, the citizens are acknowledging that the
11 private agencies are much more responsive to the needs of the
12 community, are accountable for the dollars they are spending, and can
13 lose their licenses as well as be prosecuted when they violate the laws
14 of the state.

15 Since Governor Locke has been in office the state of Washington has
16 had a seventy-six percent decrease in the finalizations of adoptions.
17 With private agencies working to recruit and retain foster and adoptive
18 families we will dramatically increase the number of permanent
19 placements for children in the state's foster care system.

1 We, the citizens of the state of Washington, feel this action is
2 necessary and in the best interest of the children of the state of
3 Washington.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The state of Washington shall dissolve the department of social
7 and health services children's administration and turn its work over to
8 private agencies contracted by the state.

9 (2) In doing so, an oversight committee shall be appointed
10 consisting of four legislators, two republican and two democrat, one
11 representative from the foster parent association of Washington, one
12 law enforcement representative, two private agency representatives, two
13 foster parents, and one adoption attorney.

14 (3) The functions of the former child protective services shall be
15 continued upon by the Washington state patrol and shall also be under
16 the scrutiny of the oversight committee created in this section. Child
17 protection services shall inform individuals in writing when an
18 investigation is being initiated and what the allegations are that led
19 to the investigation. Any child protective services investigator not
20 following the rule in this section is subject to a five hundred dollar
21 fine for first offense. Repeated offenses shall increase in five
22 hundred dollar increments. The only exception to this rule is if the
23 child is living with the individual and could be unduly influenced in
24 his or her testimony.

25 (4) Private agencies placing children that are in state custody
26 shall have immediate access to the case and management information
27 system (CAMIS) and Washington state patrol criminal investigations in
28 order to complete home studies. All private agencies, as a
29 prerequisite to placing children, must agree not to charge more than
30 four hundred fifty dollars for the completion of a home study or more
31 than one thousand dollars for an adoption placement.

32 (5) The proposed budget by the governor will remain the same thus
33 allowing much more money to be spent on the children, their care,
34 education, health, and the reunification of families.

35 (6) Any current department of social and health services employee
36 will be prohibited from obtaining employment in a similar capacity,
37 or any other capacity that will directly effect the life of a child,
38 for a period of not less than twenty four months.

1 (7) Any person wishing to obtain a foster care license must first
2 complete the sixty hour foster parent scope training class in
3 addition to the eighteen hour pre-service training class before
4 issuance of a foster care license.